

WILLIAM GEORGE MICHIE

This is an account of the life of William George Michie, up to May, 4, 1958. This history was compiled by Lois Michie, granddaughter, with the help of Erma Olsen, daughter, and Kenneth Michie son, and also from information given by Grandfather, himself. For the convenience of others who may use this account, Grandfather Michie will be referred to as William throughout this history.

William George Michie was the seventh child born of Robert Michie and Francis Potts Michie. His father was converted to the Church while working in South Africa about 1850. When William's father returned to England, where his home was, he met and married Francis Potts. They crossed the ocean with a crowd of other saints and settled in Boston. They stayed there for four years while Robert worked in a salt mill. Then they moved on to Utah in 1861. By 1875 they had settled on a farm in Parleys Canyon in a place called Mountain Dell. In the fall of that year on Oct 19, 1875 the second boy was born into the family. He was given the name of William George.

The family moved to Woodland, Summit County, Utah the following March and homesteaded a farm. They stayed there until William or Will as he was sometimes called was five years old.

They moved to Heber City where his father run a grist mill for President Abraham Hatch. The family stayed there for about eight years. William was not old enough to help very much in the mill, but he found other ways to use his time.

Once William's sister had a boyfriend visiting her. They were near the mill pond which was a flat raft with a built up edge on all sides. His sister and her boyfriend were teasing William and said they would not let him ride on the raft. All three raced for the raft, but the two teasers arrived first, got on the raft and started to push it away from the shore. William came up to the shore and grabbed a long pole affair which had a hook on the end and was used at the mill. Will jerked the built up edge of the raft with the hook and put the boyfriend, who was standing up, into the pond.

One day William and his oldest sister was chasing a mouse around. All of a sudden Will started acting funny--screaming and dancing-- the mouse had run up his leg.

William was baptized 13 July, 1884 by his father, Robert Michie. He started school when he was six. School was first held in a one room house on the corner of 2nd N. and 2 E. in Heber, where the Orson Allen home now stands. Two years later school was held where the Heber 1st Ward Church house now stands.

When William was about 13 years old, the family moved back to Woodland. Robert, his older brother had been farming there. Will had been with his brother some on the farm so he had started to learn about farm work, such as the way to care for hay, grain and other crops. Also the milking of cows and the caring of horses. He learned to handle a team for farm work and for hauling lumber. With brother Robert (Rob), they hauled lumber to Park City which took about three days to complete the trip. Park City was a busy town, and there was a place a little outside of the town for lumber haulers to camp at night. He also hauled logs to use as their fire wood as that was all they had to use.

William was ordained a deacon 27 Dec. 1891, by Daniel Mitchell and a teacher 27 Sept, 1886 by Ephraim Lambert. He was president of the deacons quorum between 1892 and 1896. He was also a ward teacher and a Sunday School teacher part of that time up to 1899.

When Will was about 19 he wasn't very well, so he went to spent the winter with his bachelor uncle, George Potts. When he came home in the spring, he was the fattest he ever was and was feeling fine.

About 1887 William started to work for the Lambert Brothers, who owned a sawmill. He hauled lumber from Soapstone where the mill was located. It was a two day trip to the mill and back to their home, then it was two more days to Park City and back. He worked at that job in the fall, attended school in the winter, and in the summer worked on the farm and hauled lumber between taking care of the crops. A few years later, Will did not haul but cut logs.

His father sold their farm on the South bench of Woodland and bought a smaller one on the North Bench. William did most of the farming under his fathers directions. He also helped his father with a small post office which his father run for quite a number of years.

On 15 Oct. 1899 William was ordained an Elder by Ephraim Lambert. Then he served as Mi. I. A. President between 1899 and 1904. During this time Will continued to haul lumber to the mines at Park City, The Silver King, the Judge, the Doyle, and the Doyle West were the mines he hauled to, to keep b when there was not very much work on the farm.

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On May 29, 1901 William married Eliza Ann Murphy, daughter of Emmanuel Bird and Eliza Ann (Lamborn) Murphy, in the Salt Lake Temple. He and his wife continued to live in Woodland until 1907. By this time they had three children, Kenneth, Erma and the baby Monroe.

In a wagon with a cow tied behind William took his family to the country now called Hanna. There he built a one room home with the help of his brother Rob and homesteaded a farm. During this time William served as Sunday School Suptintendent.

Will cut timer and hauled lumber to Kamas which was a three day trip. There was plenty of work on the farm with the cattle and sheep, but you could not earn money on the farm.

There nearest neighbor was Frank De Faye who lived about one half of a mile away and his brother Robert who lived two and a half miles away. The nearest store was at Stockmore which was about eight miles from there home. Stockmore was a tent town where people lived until they could go out and homestead a farm. Will's family got water from a spring about a half of a mile from the farm house. Sometimes there were Indians camped around the spring, but they were not mean.

One time an Indian died and the other Indians came to William and his brother Rob and asked them to make a box like the white man had when he died. Will and Rob made the box and also went with the Indians to the burying grounds. Both Michie families got on a flat rack wagon and followed the trail to Farmcreek where the Indian graveyard was. The trail wound in and out across the sage brush country and the Michies jolted along to get to their destination. A sheep herder seeing this procession made this comment. "I saw eighteen Michie's strung on a pole." During the burial the squaws did a chant, an one Indian man gave a sermon of some sort in the Indian tongue. The dead Indian was buried with his shoes, bacon, and other belongings. The grave was like a cellar, first it was covered with poles, then brush, and dirt.

On 23 Sept. 1912 William was ordained a High Priest by William H. Smart. He served as a counselor to Bishop James S. Jones at the Tabionia Ward. Later as a counselor to Alma Wagstaff in the same ward. Then William served as a counselor to Bishop Heber Moon, who was bishop of the Hanna Ward. When Bishop Moon was released William was made Bishop of the Hanna Ward. He was ordained a bishop by Elder George Albert Smith, the 13th of June 1925 and was released Feb. 24, 1937. William was in the Bishoprick for twenty-five years, twelve of which he served as bishop.

Because they traveled by wagon and because the meeting house was about five miles away, Will and his family had to start early in the morning to get to Sunday School at ten O'clock. After Sunday School they would wait around, visiting people in town, or other people who were waiting until Sacrament Meeting which started at two O'clock in the afternoon. The Sacrament Meeting lasted at least two hours. Usually there would be a bishop's meeting after Sacrament meeting to which William would stay. It would be night before the family got home. Sometimes they took a lunch, sometimes they didn't.

When William homesteaded the farm the land had to be cleared of the sage brush. William would chop up the sage brush and his children would gather it. Then at night they would make a big bonfire.

To catch wild horses the men would get together and build a tall corral. Then they would put bright colored blankets around the sides so that the horses would not jump out. Then the men would drive the horses into the corral and pick out the kind of horse they needed. William picked out a ball-faced, two different color-eyed horse and tried to break it. The horse bucked and bucked trying to throw Will off. His wife saw the horse was giving Will a bad time so she came out side to see better how he was doing. She found William hanging over a limb of a tree.

The first winter after they homesteaded they moved back to Woodland, but the next winter they built a log frame which was about five feet high, then they put a tent over it making another room in their home. It had a dirt floor but they were still very happy to have a two roomed home. In the winter, Sunday School services were held in different peoples homes.

People could not run to a doctor when accidents happened, but they took care of them, themselves. Once a boy was jumping a ditch and broke his arm. While Eliza Ann got a dish towel, William held the broken arm, the boy's mother pulled and set the arm. The arm healed fine. William took his turn with the other people to help care for the sick and those who died.

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William was a respected man and an honorable one. Once when the family was coming home from church in a wagon, they came upon an Indian called Winchester. Winchester was full of bues. William put him in their wagon and took him to Winchester's sister home. When Winchester sister and her husband say who was coming, they came out and said "Take him away, no want, him mean." They were very frightened and did not want Winchester to stay. William talked with them trying to make them understand the Winchester would be good, but they were still frightened. Winchester must have been very mean when he was drunk. Finally he helped Winchester into the house and asked where he could sleep. The squaw pointed and said "Him sleep there." (which was behind the stove.) William put a blanket under and over Winchester and said to him "Now you be good or I will come down in the morning and have the sheriff take care of you." Winchester was so drunk he could not walk alone, but he said all right to what Will had told him. When William went back in the morning, he found Winchester outside working. The squaw said to William, "Him sleep good, him good all night."

William served as an election judge. He helped build the school and church. He also served as a school trustee member for three years.

He and Eliza Ann had seven sons and four daughters. Two boys and two girls died at birth. Another son died at the age of two. Eliza Ann died on March 29, 1947.

After his wife's death, William went to work in Salt Lake City at the Desert Industries. He always liked to keep busy and work at some thing. He worked there for about seven years. He worked mostly in the shoe department of the Desert Industries. While in Salt Lake he did much temple work. He went through the temple for about one hundred and fifty ancestor. He also read poetry and visted Liberty Park.

After quitting his work in Salt Lake City in about 1954, William has spent part of his time with his son Monroe who has been taking care of his homesteaded farm and part of the time with his daughter Erma Olsen in Heber.

He is now staying in Heber. He does quite abit of reading and still tried to keep busy at the age of eighty-two. At this time he has three sons, and two daughters living, nineteen grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.